

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

©2026, Issue #31

Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Thursday-Friday, July 30-31, 2026

Annual Zucchini Festival returns to Holland Aug. 16

HOLLAND — The Friends of the Holland Community Center will once again host their Annual Zucchini Festival at the Holland Community Center at 40 Brimfield Rd. in Holland. The event will take place on Sunday, Aug. 16 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Admission is

free, and there is something for everyone to enjoy. We will have a bake sale, raffle table, a “spin the wheel” for prizes for the kiddos, a zucchini “cook off” contest, and a foam machine for kids and adults alike to run through to cool off. The Holland Fire



Department will once again be on hand (unless they are called away) with at least one of their fire trucks to check out, and our giant chess set and cornhole will be set up if you wish to use them.

Scout Troop #163 will be selling hot dogs and drinks, and Angry Panda and O’Neil’s Lemonade will also be on site.

Visitors can browse plenty of booths inside and outside, where both new and returning vendors will offer jewelry, local honey, and home-made items of every kind imaginable.

It will be a great opportunity for you to bring your redeemable bottles and cans to drop off in our bin to the left of the building.

There is something for everyone, so we hope you will join us for this family friendly fun-filled afternoon. For more information, please call the Center at 413-245-3163 or email us at friendsoftholland@gmail.com.

Gateway Players celebrate music of Jimmy Buffett

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents “Jimmy Buffett’s Escape to Margaritaville,” with book by Greg Garcia and Mike O’Malley, music and lyrics by Jimmy Buffett. Performance dates are July 31 and Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. & Aug. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Southbridge Middle/High School Auditorium, 132 Torrey Rd., Southbridge. Directed by Patricia Haddock, Produced by Kathi Grenier, Music Director Chris Rubenacker, and Choreographer Harlie Packard. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/gateway-players/jimmy-buffett-s-escape-to-margaritaville>

The cast includes: Andrew St. George, Sarah Tonkin, Jonathan Martin, Abi Simpson, Billy Bolster, Gwen O’Brien, Peter Amaral, Chris Lam, Asher McCoy, Shawn Davis, Hillary Robertson, David Yutzler, Ray Petrelli, Cheri Cooper, Mari Cordero, Emma Holtz, Tiffany Betty, and Lydia Woznicki.

On a small island in the Caribbean, vacation goes and the laid-back staff of the Margaritaville bar flirt, unwind and sip drinks under the sun. When an ambitious tourist named Rachel arrives with her friend Tammy for a much-needed vacation, she finds an unexpected romance with Tully, the island bartender and musician. As paradise collides with real life, both are faced with deciding what they want beyond the sandy beaches of Margaritaville. This tropical romantic comedy has plenty to laugh at and a sweet love story – all underscored by Jimmy Buffett’s classic tunes, including “Cheeseburger in Paradise,” “Margaritaville,” “It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere,” “Fins,” “Volcano,” and many more. With a book by Emmy Award winner Greg Garcia (My Name is Earl, Raising Hope) and Emmy nominee Mike O’Malley (Survivor’s Remorse, Shameless), this hilarious, heartwarming musical is the party you’ve been waiting for!

Free concert at Jacob Edwards Library

SOUTHBRIDGE — The StarCats jazz trio will perform a free concert called Day Dream at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday Aug. 20 at the Jacob Edwards Library, Southbridge.

A delightfully eclectic New England jazz trio, the StarCats was formed in 2017 by vocalist Sarah Clay with the vision to make jazz more fun, accessible, and entertaining for everyone. The StarCats create a new themed concert program each year. For 2026, the StarCats present Day Dream. Where do you go when your mind wanders? Sweet reverie, thoughts of love? Or rueful rumination? There’s music for every mood.

Inspired by the public outreach of Winton Marsalis, the vocal brilliance of Ella Fitzgerald, and the humor of Mose Allison, the StarCats intertwine standards by greats like Duke Ellington



and Thelonius Monk, Bossa Nova by Jobim, and arrangements of Stevie Wonder, Sarah Bareilles, Joni Mitchell and Soundgarden. You’ll hear swinging Retro-pop, spicy

Latin rhythms, soul-aching ballads and mellow blues.

Sarah Clay (vocals/flute) thrills with expressive, crystalline tone and sultry flute. Bob Ferrier (guitar) sparks

joy with tasty chords and playful improvisation. Steve Bulmer (upright bass) lays down a sweet, rhythmic groove that soothes the soul.

“The StarCats are magnificent! Sarah’s scat and flawless range... ingenious bass riffs... fingers dancing up down the guitar... I left inspired and uplifted,” says Rev. Pirtle, Westhampton.

The StarCats have performed at the Northampton Jazz Festival, the Litchfield Sunrise Concert Series, the Pittsfield Jazz Festival, the 1794 Meetinghouse, Workshop 13, Summer on Strong Street Festival, the Westfield Athenaeum, the Berkshire Athenaeum, and more.

This concert is supported in part by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Major General Salem Towne Lodge holds family cookout

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, July 25, Masonic family members and friends from Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL) and the Doric Chapter of Southbridge filled the upper parking lot at Westville Dam Recreation Area in Southbridge for their annual summer cookout.

These respected organizations have hosted this family tradition since 1991.

Courtesy Photo

(Right) Members of MGST Lodge, the Doric Chapter, their families, and friends enjoy the beautiful weather, refreshing breeze, food, fellowship, and camaraderie.



On a beautiful summer day, guests enjoyed a strong turnout, walking trails, scenic views, and the natural beauty of Westville Dam, which has been the lodge’s favorite recreation area for the past 35 years. Because the large pavilion is highly sought after, it must be reserved at least a year in advance. Children laughed and played, and guests of all ages enjoyed the games. The highlights of the day were the delicious food, the chance to reconnect with brethren and their families, and the camaraderie shared by all. If you are interested in learning more about Freemasonry, please visit www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge near you.

Overlook launches free summer concert series in Charlton

CHARLTON — Music lovers have six opportunities to enjoy live outdoor performances this summer as The Overlook hosts its annual Summer Concert Series on Tuesday

evenings throughout July and into August.

The free concerts will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on the outdoor commons at The Overlook, 88 Masonic Home Rd., offering a variety of musical styles ranging from jazz and brass to classic rock and blues. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of live entertainment with family and friends. In the event of rain, performances will move indoors to the Performing Arts Center.

The Salty Sister Project Acoustic Trio will perform July 28, offering an evening of acoustic favorites and harmonies.

The series continues into August with The Reminisants on Aug. 4, bringing audiences back to the golden era of 1950s and 1960s rock and roll.

The final concert will be held Aug. 11, when The Lustre Kings perform a mix of blues, rhythm and blues, and rockabilly music.

The Summer Concert Series has become a popular seasonal tradition, offering residents and visitors an opportunity to gather outdoors and enjoy live music in a relaxed setting.

Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 508-403-4987 or visit OverlookMass.org/events.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snake-like fish
9. Database management system
13. Social evolution anthropologist Service
14. American rocker Grohl
15. Greek personification of compassion
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Popular type of cigar
22. Discounts
23. The whole quantity
24. New York Giants legend
25. Indicates before
28. Lentils
29. Extremely angry
31. Body part
33. "North Star State"
36. David __, US playwright

38. Lower and raise one's head
39. Private rendezvous
41. In a way, improved
44. A place to play
45. Astronomical period of 18 years
46. Automobile
48. Something you can take
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless
60. Horizontal passage from the surface into a mine
61. Indian respectful titles
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. Central Utah city
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Necessary for breathing
68. Put into play

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. Yellowish volatile liquid
4. Makes less severe
5. Debit note
6. Overhang
7. The nights before
8. Type of light
9. Lacking enthusiasm
10. Tattle
11. Some is "heavy"
12. One who is canonized
14. Indicates date and place of writing
17. "Peace" in Arabic
20. "Olaf" actor Josh
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Advanced degree
26. Backside
27. Influential architect and design couple
29. An act of undue intimacy

30. Words from which later words are derived
32. 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Fungal sacs
37. The law of God revealed to Moses
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A promise
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Large bank
50. Served as an omen
52. Cavalry sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Belgian WW2 resistance leader Jules
56. Italian Seaport
57. Hip joint
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Insect repellent
61. Constrictor snake
65. "The First State" (abbr.)

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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S	W	B	D		T	E	E			D	E	V	V	B	

REAL ESTATE

Charlton

\$814,000, 79 Jennings Rd, Rawan Capital Invs LLC, and Rawan, Douglas, to Kitkos, Susan, and Kitkos, Vasileios.

\$715,000, 53 Fitzgerald Rd, Mccarthy, Kevin F, and Mccarthy, Tammy M, to Andreolewicz, Allison, and Morse, Brian.

\$540,000, 82 H Foote Rd, Breen, Diane E, to Santangelo, Brian.

\$539,900, 187 Center Depot Rd, Tremblay, Daniel D, and Hebert, Sarah K, to Arguello, Jennifer, and Arguello, Ignacio J.

\$420,000, 46 Denfield Rd, Mcgee, Donald C, and Mcgee, Jean E, to Mcgee, Patrick, and Mcgee, Hannah.

\$115,000, Daniels Rd, Young Mens Christian Assn, to Lueders, Taylor, and Arena, Jack M.

\$90,000, Partridge Hill Rd #1B, Gingras, Timothy P, to Prop Soln Re & Contractin.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$620,000, 219 Charlton St, Silveira, Erivaldo, and Silveira, Ieyia, to Castasus, Nolvía Irigoin, and Castasus, Christopher P.

\$595,000, 11-13 Edward St, Muldoon, Clifford C, and Muldoon, Clifford, to Chundi, Lohith.

\$477,500, 998 Guelphwood Rd, Carlman, Douglas R, and

Carlman, Rebekah, to Ventura, Fernando.

\$455,000, 141 Cournoyer Blvd, Lebron, Omar, and Lebron, Glendaliz, to Kimani, Winnie.

\$450,000, 53 Laurel Hill Rd, Wehbe, Elias, and Wehbe, Therese, to Vega, Silvia M, and Fuentes, Gerson A-V.

\$407,000, 100 Cole Ave, Trahan, Diane, to Loughney, Erin.

\$400,000, 841 Dennison Dr, Thurston, Sally, to White, Kathryn Lynn, and Sposato Jr, Donald Paul.

\$365,000, 12 Margaret St, Ziemba, Albert H, and Ziemba, Patricia A, to Didonato, Michael, and Marchand, Brittany.

\$200,000, 73 Cliff St, Knight, Wayne H, and Knight, Clara Luz, to Gervais Realty Group LLC.

STURBRIDGE

\$600,000, 10 Blueberry Ln, Challas-Gimm, Daniel J, and Gimm, Kira, to Gerald, James Fitz, and Doyle, Aryn.

\$590,000, 26 Woodside Cir, Laflash, Danielle Louise, and Delva, Mydarline, to Delva, Marc H, and Josephdelva, Patricia.

\$582,900, 76 Fiske Hill Rd, Beauchemin, Melissa B, to Either, Andrew.

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VILLAGER ALMANAC

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visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.
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..... (508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School
..... (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

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and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY
Mon, Tu & Th 2-6, W 12-6, Sat 9-12 closed Fri & Sun

CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

• **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

• **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am
Pastor Kathryn Light

• **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge
Phone number 508-764-6132,
Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale-** 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church-** 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

• **Holland Congregation Church**
"Where the Bible is preached."
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky

• **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Phone: 508-765-9559
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

• **St. John Paul II Parish**
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor
Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon
Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church (508) 765-3701

Shop, sip, and support at Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's Feline Fun Day

BRIMFIELD — Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) invites cat lovers of all ages to its annual Feline Fun Day on Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Brimfield Winery. This free, family-friendly event brings the community together for an afternoon of fun while raising funds to support shelter cats and HTAT's community programs.

Visitors can browse local craft vendors, enjoy delicious food, sip wine from the winery's own selection, listen to music, and try their luck at exciting raffles throughout the day. Guests will also have the chance to enjoy kitten cuddling with some of HTAT's youngest residents. While the kittens won't be available for adoption at the event, they're sure to bring plenty of smiles. Whether you're spending the day with family, meeting friends, or simply celebrating your love of cats, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Every dollar raised by HTAT during Feline Fun Day helps provide care for shelter cats while supporting programs that keep pets with the families who

love them. Through services like low-cost spay and neuter, a pet food pantry, and other community assistance programs, HTAT works to ensure that cats and their owners have access to the support they need. As more families face financial challenges each year, the organization remains committed to being a trusted resource for pets.

HTAT Executive Director Rachael Max says Feline Fun Day is about more than just a fun afternoon; it's about bringing the community together for a shared cause.

"Every person who attends, shops with a vendor, or purchases a raffle ticket helps make a difference for cats both inside and outside our shelter," said Max. "It's a wonderful opportunity to have fun while supporting programs that strengthen our entire community."

Feline Fun Day will take place on Saturday, Aug. 1 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Brimfield Winery, 35 Main St., Brimfield. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.heretodaysanctuary.org or call 413-324-8224.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on helping cats and the people who love them in our community. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield. It is deeply important to us that every resident's stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone. We believe that pets are cherished members of the family and that every cat deserves care, respect, and the chance to thrive, no matter their circumstances. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program,

and free cat behavior program. Each year, HTAT helps over 1,500 animals and their families. For more information, visit heretodaysanctuary.org.

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary, and follow us on Instagram at [@heretodayadoptedtommorrow](https://instagram.com/heretodayadoptedtommorrow).

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

YEAR-ROUND SHORT-TERM RENTAL Egrets Landing-31A - LIGHTHOUSE POINT CONDOMINIUMS -TYBEE ISLAND, GEORGIA

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Joshua Hyde Public Library

306 Main St., Sturbridge
508-347-2512
mayent@cwmars.org

STORY TIMES

SUMMER BABY TIME - Join us for rhymes, songs, and lap bounces. Mondays at 10:45am - 8/3

SUMMER TODDLER TIME - Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft. Tuesdays at 10:45am - 8/4

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

SUMMER READING FINALE - DANCE PARTY WITH LITTLE BEATS and the ice cream truck. Registration is required for the ice cream truck. August 5 at 1:00pm on the Town Common

SCAVENGER HUNTS - In the Children's Room Ice Age - July 22 through August 4

SUMMER COLORING CONTEST

Pick up a coloring page at the library and return it by August 5. Entries will be displayed in the stairwell and one winner from each age group (3-5yrs; 6-9yrs; 10-12yrs) will be chosen by

the staff.

TEEN & ADULT PROGRAMS

COLOR ME CALM

Wednesday, August 5 at 5:30pm. Registration is not required.

SUMMER TAKE & MAKE CRAFTS

Week of August 3 - Magnolia Leaf Book Page Wreath

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

To register for programs and for more information go to sturbridgelibrary.org.

FOR RENT

Townsend, CT

Route 197

10x40 mobile unit with 12x16 porch

Full bath, furnished

OHA

40+ Community

Nice location

\$375/weekly, \$1500 deposit

508-344-0732

UMass Amherst announces Spring graduates

AMHERST — Approximately 7,000 students received bachelor's degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Undergraduate Commencement on May 15, 2026 at the McGuirk Alumni Stadium.

Below is a list of students from your area that received a bachelor's degree from

the University of Massachusetts Amherst:

Brimfield

Libby Higgins

Sheldon

Abigail Kathryn Stattenfield

Charlton

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EDITOR

*It's not about a vegetable
— it's about community*

Every town has its traditions. Some revolve around grand parades or historic anniversaries. Others are built around something far more humble. In Holland, one of those traditions happens to be a zucchini.

On the surface, the Friends of the Holland Community Center's Annual Zucchini Festival may sound like a lighthearted celebration of an abundant summer vegetable. But anyone who has spent time in a small town knows these events are never really about the produce. They are about people.

The Aug. 16 festival once again promises a full afternoon of family fun, from a bake sale and zucchini cook-off to local vendors, children's activities, live demonstrations, and food from local organizations and businesses. There will be opportunities to support Scout Troop 163, browse handmade crafts, visit with neighbors, and even drop off redeemable bottles and cans to benefit the community center.

What makes events like this so valuable is that they strengthen the connections that make small towns resilient.

Community centers often serve as the living rooms of rural towns. They host meetings, celebrations, educational programs, and gatherings that bring together residents of all ages. They are places where newcomers become neighbors and longtime residents reconnect with familiar faces. Those facilities do not thrive on buildings alone. They thrive because volunteers devote countless hours organizing fundraisers, maintaining programs, and creating reasons for people to come together.

The Friends of the Holland Community Center exemplify that spirit. Organizing an event of this size requires months of planning, recruiting vendors, coordinating entertainment, arranging volunteers, and handling countless details that most visitors never see. Their reward is measured not in profits, but in laughter, conversations, and seeing families spend an afternoon together.

The festival also highlights another important truth about community life. Local organizations succeed when they support one another.

The Holland Fire Department's participation gives children a chance to explore a fire truck and perhaps meet the firefighters who stand ready to respond when emergencies arise. Scout Troop 163 gains valuable fundraising opportunities while providing food for visitors. Local artisans, beekeepers, and craftspeople have a venue to showcase their work. Small businesses like Angry Panda and O'Neil's Lemonade become part of the day's experience. Everyone benefits from everyone else's success.

That cooperative spirit has long been one of rural New England's greatest strengths. Rather than competing for attention, organizations often work side by side, recognizing that a vibrant community depends on many hands pulling in the same direction.

There is another benefit that often goes unnoticed. In an era when so much of daily life takes place through phones and computer screens, community festivals encourage something increasingly rare: face-to-face conversation.

Children play together without worrying about notifications. Neighbors who have not seen each other since winter catch up over lemonade. Volunteers meet new residents. Visitors discover organizations they may later choose to support. These simple interactions help build the trust and familiarity that make communities stronger when challenges arise.

Not every event has to be large or elaborate to have lasting value. Sometimes all it takes is a shared meal, a friendly competition, a few local vendors, and a reason to spend an afternoon together.

The Annual Zucchini Festival reminds us that community isn't built through grand gestures. It grows steadily through ordinary people giving their time, sharing their talents, and creating opportunities for others to belong.

That may be the most important harvest of all.

Letter submission
policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Building your child's education fund, one brick at a time

Every solid house starts with a good blueprint and a strong foundation. Saving for a child's education is very similar.

College costs can seem daunting. In addition to tuition, you'll need to account for housing and food, books and supplies, transportation, and other expenses. The average annual budget at an in-state public university runs around \$30,990 today, and a private school is \$65,470 according to the College Board. While most families won't pay a college's list price, you'll still want to start saving as early as possible to be ready when your child is.

Lay the foundation early. You don't have to wait until you have the perfect set of plans to start building. There are specific accounts designed to save for education, and some do not require a minimum opening deposit. Setting up automatic recurring contributions, even modest ones, lets you build steadily over time without requiring constant attention.

As your child ages, look for ways to redirect expenses you no longer have towards the build. For example, daycare costs, which can exceed \$1,000 a month, can be shifted into a college savings account once your child enters school. Tax refunds and annual bonuses make excellent additional contributions. And others can pitch in – instead of birthday or holiday toys, ask grandparents or relatives to contribute directly to a college savings account.

Know the size of the house you're building. Families saving for community college followed by two years at a public university might target around \$65,000. Those aiming for four years at a public school are looking at roughly \$100,000. Whatever the goal, plan for education inflation of about 4% annually, which can roughly double costs over 18 years.

You don't have to source all the building materials your-



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self. Scholarships, grants, student loans, and income from part-time work are all legitimate ways to help finish the structure.

Don't let one project consume the whole budget. One risk for parents is pouring so much into the college fund that the retirement fund goes neglected. Remember, loans and grants exist for college, but not for retirement. Striking the right balance may mean targeting a more

affordable school, planning to cover only a portion of costs, or adjusting retirement timelines slightly.

Choose the right building materials. For many families, a 529 plan is the right foundation. Earnings grow tax-free, distributions are federally tax-free when used for qualified education expenses, and many states offer additional income tax deductions for contributions. Even better, anyone – such as grandparents or friends – can contribute.

Additionally, qualified expenses for a 529 plan go beyond tuition and cover books, computers, internet access, room and board, and more. Vocational and trade schools often qualify, too, opening the door to careers in skilled trades, healthcare, and technology.

No contractor builds alone. A knowledgeable financial advisor can help you draw up a realistic blueprint and make sure the college project doesn't crowd out the rest of your financial future. The earlier you break ground on that conversation, the stronger the structure will be.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

When every errand took a little longer

I had three stops to make the other day. On paper, it should have taken about 30 minutes. Pick up one item, drop off another, grab a gallon of milk, and head home. An hour and 15 minutes later, I finally pulled into the driveway.

The funny thing is, I wasn't delayed by traffic. I was delayed by people.

At the hardware store, I bumped into a fellow I hadn't seen since last fall. We spent a few minutes talking about the weather, which, in New England, is less a conversation starter than an ongoing community project. We compared notes on gardens, wondered whether we'd ever get enough rain, and somehow ended up discussing high school football schedules.

At the post office, another familiar face asked how my wife was doing. Before I could answer, someone else joined the conversation because they had overheard the question and knew exactly who we were talking about.

By the time I reached the grocery store, I had already had three conversations and learned about a church supper, a grandson's first job, and a neighbor's new puppy. None of it had anything to do with why I left the house.

It reminded me that errands used to be more than chores. They were social occasions.

You never knew who you'd run into, and that was part of the experience. If someone spotted your car in a parking lot, there was a decent chance you'd meet them inside before you made it to the checkout.

Nowadays, efficiency seems to be the goal. Order online.

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

Pick up curbside. Self-checkout. Tap your card. Head home.

There's nothing wrong with any of that. Sometimes convenience is exactly what we need.

But convenience has quietly eliminated some of the unexpected moments that make living in a small town feel different from living anywhere else.

Those chance encounters don't accomplish much in the traditional

sense. They don't shorten your to-do list or make you more productive. What they do is remind you that you're part of a community. You hear that someone's daughter earned a scholarship. You learn that a longtime business owner is finally taking a vacation. You find out a neighbor had surgery and could use someone to mow the lawn next week. None of those updates arrive through an app. They travel the old-fashioned way—one conversation at a time.

I suppose that's why I've never been too bothered when an errand takes longer than expected. If I leave the house with a list of five things to do and come home having completed all five, that's a successful trip. If I also come home knowing a little more about the people who share this corner of Massachusetts with me, that's an even better one.

The older I get, the more I appreciate those unscheduled conversations. They can't be penciled into a calendar or squeezed between appointments. They simply happen when neighbors cross paths. And maybe that's why they're worth protecting. Because someday we'll all finish our errands. What we'll remember are the people we met along the way.

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Local residents to participate in Pan-Mass Challenge to support cancer research

NEEDHAM — This Aug. 1 and 2, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) will bring together more than 6,000 cyclists and 4,000 volunteers on August 1-2 to raise money for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Participants from local communities will be among those helping support the PMC's mission to fund lifesaving cancer research and treatment.

Local participants include:

Anthony Fama of Sturbridge
Marie Dubrey of Sturbridge
Michele Dubrey - Peterson of Sturbridge
Melissa Beauchemin of Sturbridge
David Darrin of Sturbridge
Beverly Spreemann of Sturbridge
Steven Sexton of Sturbridge
Timothy Langevin of Sturbridge
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Beth DiFederico of Sturbridge
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Raki Zwiebel of Sturbridge
Mary Dowling of Sturbridge
Mary Langevin of Sturbridge
Brandi Linden of Sturbridge
Marty Maketansky of Holland
Mitchell Leo of Fiskdale
Melissa Nemet of Fiskdale
Westley Nemet of Fiskdale
Kristen Leo of Fiskdale
Richard Kaufman of Fiskdale
Vanessa Azua of Fiskdale
Tommy Azua of Fiskdale
Brian Fitzgerald of Fiskdale
Michael Leo of Fiskdale
Susan Skowrya of Fiskdale

Brian Nemet of Fiskdale
Kayla Dighton of Wales
Cynthia Schermerhorn of Brimfield
Louise Majewski of Southbridge
Jenna Maguire of Southbridge
Carley Ceppetelli of Southbridge
Charice Kalis of Southbridge
Steven Stella of Southbridge
Kristina Garrant of Southbridge
Steven Norbeck of Charlton City
Alan Turner of Charlton
Paul Camara of Charlton
Martha Cyr of Charlton
Nathan Carty of Charlton
Bob Martin of Charlton
Philip Cyr of Charlton
Ivy Dowdle of Charlton

The PMC, which raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraiser in the world, is aiming to raise more than ever this year, with a fundraising goal of \$79 million.

This year's PMC comes at an especially critical time, with federal research support shrinking, grant approval rates reaching historic lows, and cancer cases continuing to rise. For the 20thconsecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar will go directly to Dana-Farber, one of the nation's top three hospitals for cancer research and care.

"The theme for this year's PMC, which is 'now, more than ever,' underscores the paramount importance of every single dollar raised in fueling the search for a cure," said Billy Starr, founder and chairman of the PMC. "We are endlessly grateful to every rider, volunteer, donor, and sponsor who makes the PMC possible. Because of their training miles, long hours of volunteering, generous support, and unwavering commitment, we are moving ever closer to a world without

cancer."

Since its inception in 1980, the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber, making it the organization's largest single contributor and accounting for 67 percent of the annual revenue of The Jimmy Fund, Dana-Farber's community-driven fundraising arm. This unrestricted annual funding has empowered and accelerated advancements in cancer research, deeply benefiting patients across the world.

During each annual PMC weekend, thousands of cyclists and volunteers come together from across the world, hailing from 47 US states and 12 countries, with a shared purpose of raising as much money as possible for Dana-Farber. Cyclists ride routes ranging from 25 to 177 miles. Included among these participants is the PMC Living Proof community, riders and volunteers who were previously treated or are currently undergoing cancer treatment and serve as Living Proof of the progress made through raising funds for cancer research and treatment.

There is still time to participate in this year's Pan-Mass Challenge. Folks interested in getting involved can learn more and register at PMC.org.

About the Pan-Mass Challenge

The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is a bike-a-thon that today raises more money for charity than any other single

athletic fundraising event in the world. Founded in 1980 by Billy Starr - who remains the event's founder & chairman, an annual cyclist, and a fundraiser - the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund. As Dana-Farber's single largest contributor, the organization generates 67 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to fueling cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber. In addition to its two-day bike-a-thon across Massachusetts, the PMC is powered by further "spokes in the wheel," with initiatives including the PMC Winter Cycle, an indoor spin event; PMC Unpaved, a gravel bike ride; and PMC Kids Rides, mini bike-a-thons for children ages 2 to 15. The PMC attracts riders and volunteers from 47 states and 12 countries and over 300,000 individual donors. Across events, the PMC has successfully melded support from committed cyclists, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and individual donors, all of whom are essential to the PMC's goal and model: to attain maximum fundraising efficiency while increasing its annual gift. The PMC's aspiration is to provide Dana-Farber's doctors and researchers with the necessary resources to discover cures for all cancers. For more information, visit www.pmc.org.

Drought conditions prompt water restrictions

SOUTHBRIDGE/CHARLTON — The Massachusetts Drought Task for issues a Level -2 Significant Drought status for Worcester County. The Town of Southbridge now has to require that all Southbridge and Charlton water customers refrain from all outside water use except for handheld watering between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m. Please turn off all outside sprinkler systems.

This declaration from the State also applies to homes with private wells.

Certain water uses are not subject to restrictions such as production of food and fiber, health and safety reasons, maintenance of livestock, and core functions of a business (for example irrigation for a nursery).

For the general public's information, Currently the Southbridge Water Departments reservoir system is at 100.1 percent of total capacity. This is within our historical average for this time of year.

The declaration is a county wide declaration, and not due to any current water storage shortfalls within the Southbridge Water Department. This declaration is part of new laws and regulations put forth by the State legislature, and enforcement went into effect in April of 2025.

To be clear, the Southbridge Water department is not experiencing any water storage shortages currently.

The declaration of Level- 2 significant drought will remain in effect until the State Drought Task Force deems that the conditions within Worcester Country have returned to acceptable levels.

More information can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/drought-management-task-force>

Please feel free to contact the Southbridge Water Department at 508-764-3207 if you have any questions or concerns.

Local students graduate from Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College congratulates the 2026 graduating class, who earned their academic degrees at the College's commencement ceremony on May 2, 2026, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Delcie D. Bean IV, founder and CEO of Paragus IT, an employee-owned managed information technology (IT) services firm that is one of the most successful, fastest-growing IT firms in the region, delivered the commencement address.

The following local students earned the degrees listed:

Emma White of Charlton earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Robert Thomas of Southbridge earned a Bachelor of Arts

Julia Fearing of Brimfield earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Angel Colon Rivera of Fiskdale earned a Master of Business Administration

Benjamin Yarter of Sturbridge earned

a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

We applaud these students for their achievement.

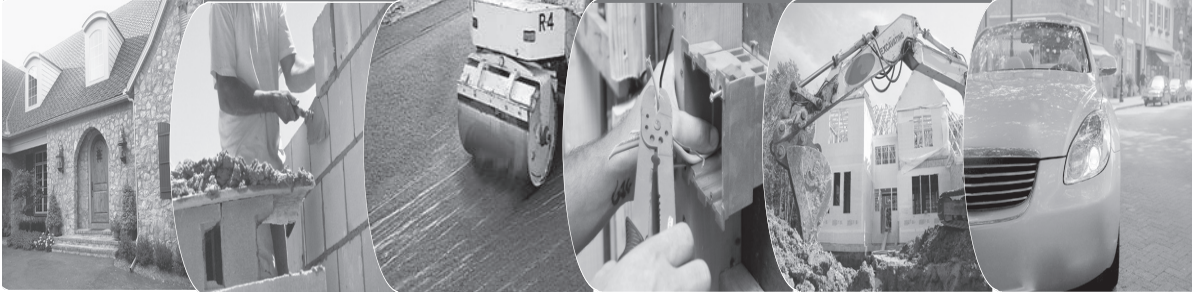
About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

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Qualified contractors are invited to bid on a set of contract documents for the construction of The Mechanic Street and Pleasant Street Complete Streets Improvements in the Town of East Brookfield. Class of work is Highway-Construction. Invitation for Bidders (IFB) Packages with specifications and a sample contract will be available on June 23, 2026. Request for bid documents can be emailed to Christopher Lyman at clyman@hshassoc.com. Sealed bids entitled "Bid for Mechanic Street and Pleasant Street Complete Streets Improvements" will be accepted at the East Brookfield Highway Department, located at 424 East Main Street, East Brookfield, MA 01515, until July 28, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. Bids submitted after this time will not be accepted.

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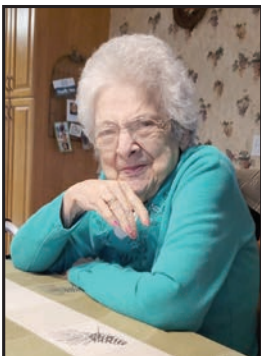
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OBITUARIES

Priscilla A. (Bourque) Verrier, 93

Priscilla A. (Bourque) Verrier, 93, formerly of Alexander Rd. Holland, MA, passed away July 16, 2026 at her daughter's home in South Carolina, where she has been living for the past couple of years. She was born June 6, 1933 in Biddeford, ME, daughter of Philias and Dora (Perrault) Bourque and attended local schools. She worked at Sanderson MacLeod in Palmer for 17 years and Wright's Outlet Store for three years before her retirement in 1997. Priscilla was a communicant of St. Christopher's Church in Brimfield. In 2021, she was predeceased by her husband, Ralph H. Verrier. Her love will remain with her five children, Robert (Odette) Verrier of Plattsburgh, NY, Kathleen (Richard) Worthing of Conway, SC, Joanne (Gary) Wood of Murrells Inlet, SC, James (Donna) Verrier of Germanton,



NC, and Theresa (William) Fullerton of Birch Tree, MO. She also leaves several grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. She was one of four children of which Joseph Aurel Bourque and Aldis Roland Bourque predeceased her. She has one remaining brother, Gerald Roger Bourque of New Port Richey, FL.

Visitation was held on Sunday, July 26, 2026 from 2-5pm at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Family and friends were welcomed to gather at the funeral home July 27th at 9:30am to prepare for a funeral procession to St. Christopher's Church in Brimfield at 11am. Burial immediately followed in St. Anne's Cemetery in Fiskdale, MA. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Troop 163 hosting ice cream social & open house

STURBRIDGE — Do you like camping, hiking, swimming, biking, fishing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, sailing, exploring with friends, and more? You might like being a scout! Come to an ice cream social and open house held by Troop 163, an all-girl troop of Scouting America. Learn about lassoing and how to use a sling shot, and other activities. Families are welcome. Please stop by, have

fun, and learn about scouting and our troop. The ice cream social and open house will be held on Sunday, Aug. 30 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St. in Sturbridge. The troop is open to girls aged 11-17, and while based in Sturbridge, is open to residents of any town. Please email troop163sturbridge@gmail.com with any questions.

Mechanics Hall expands Club 321 to year-round concert series

WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall announces the 2026-2027 season of Club 321, expanding its popular live music series to 12 performances spanning July 2026 through June 2027. The season opens July 30 and introduces a new full-season subscription, giving audiences more opportunities to experience outstanding regional, national, and international artists in an informal club setting. With the launch of Club 321 in 2022, Mechanics Hall created an inviting listening room in the iconic landmark's Washburn Hall, showcasing exceptional musicians across blues, jazz, soul, folk, Americana, and world music. Now presented one Thursday evening every month, the series has earned a loyal following for its relaxed atmosphere and outstanding live performances.

New this season, audiences may purchase a full-season subscription, receiving tickets to all 12 performances for the price of 10. Individual tickets are \$30, while a season subscription is \$300. Mechanics Hall members receive an additional 10 percent discount on both individual tickets and subscriptions. "Club 321 gives audiences the chance to discover incredible musicians in a setting where every seat feels close to the stage," said Christon Carney, education and outreach manager for Mechanics Hall and the curator of this season's series. "This season brings together artists representing a wide range of musical traditions—from returning audiences' favorites to performers making their Club 321 debut. Every concert offers something unique, while maintaining the high caliber of musicianship audiences have come to expect from Mechanics Hall." Club 321 takes place in Washburn Hall at Mechanics Hall, with cabaret tables, theater seating, and standing room creating a relaxed club atmosphere. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.,

with performances from 7 to approximately 9 p.m. Events are open to guests ages 18 and older and include a cash bar, a featured signature cocktail, and charcuterie prepared by Worcester local Charcuterie by Cherise. Tickets available at mechanicshall.org. 2026–2027 Club 321 Schedule July 30 – Robbie Pate (jazz, soul & R&B) Aug. 20 – Carlos Odria & RioFlow (Latin jazz & world music) Sept. 24 – Albino Mbie (Afro-pop & global music) Oct. 22 – Greg Piccolo & Heavy Juice (blues & R&B): Presented in partnership with 90.5 WICN's Brian Barlow Series Nov. 12 – Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards (folk & Americana) Dec. 10 – Michelle "Evil Gal" Willson (blues & soul) Artists for the following dates will be announced: Jan. 21 Feb. 18 March 11 April 8 May 13 June 10 About Mechanics Hall Steeped in the rich history of 19th-century Worcester, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls. Regionally, it is a gathering place celebrated for its architecture, acoustics, and vibrant cultural programming. In addition to serving as a premier performance venue and recording venue, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences through concerts, educational initiatives, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative partnerships. Mechanics Hall is a nonprofit organization owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association, established in 1842. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at MechanicsHall.org.



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*prices subject to change



Hitchcock’s Summer Concert Series rocks Brimfield Town Common on Wednesday evenings



BRIMFIELD — The Hitchcock Summer Concert Series sponsored by Country Bank will take place on Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m., through Aug. 19 on the Brimfield Town Common. In the case of rain, concerts will

move to Thursday. A food truck will be on site at each event. Picnics are also welcome; chairs and blankets are encouraged. The series kicks off on July 1 with Woodshed, bringing Acoustic Folk, Country

& Americana. Members Jason Wood of Brimfield, along with A.J. Kiernan, Karen Gallant, and Mike St. Germain are four musical friends who found each other through a love of music and mutual admi-

ration, and are known for their signature three-part harmony. BT’s Smokehouse will be on site.

Aug. 5 brings the Brimfield debut of The Willies - a popular, community-focused classic rock and Americana band based out of Belchertown. The band performs across the Western Mass region, playing high-energy hits from the 1950s through the 1980s, modern country, and rock standards. Flippin’ the Bird BBQ returns for this concert.

Long-time series favorite CobbleStone Road of Connecticut returns on August 12th with high-energy country. Well-known throughout the region for playing modern and classic country hits from the 1990s to today, their energetic style mixes classic country with rock and blues. Smashing Patties will have their concert series debut this evening.

The series closes out on Aug. 19 with Hard Knox, a Westfield, Massachusetts-based party rock and cover band known for their high-energy shows and "forgotten classics" setlist. Instead of regular cover tunes, they play unique, underappreciated gems from the '70s and '80s, making them a fixture in the Western Mass and Northern Connecticut music scenes. BT’s Smokehouse will return to bookend this year’s food truck lineup.

In addition to Presenting Sponsor Country Bank, this program is supported in part by a grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Hitchcock Summer Concert Series At-a-Glance:

Aug. 5 The Willies
‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s & more! | Flippin’ the Bird BBQ
Aug 12 CobbleStone Road
Country | Smashing Patties
Aug. 19 Hard Knox
Classic sounds of the ‘70s, ‘80s, & ‘90s | BT’s

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

All Saints Academy eighth graders experience learning beyond the classroom

WEBSTER — The eighth-grade students of All Saints Academy recently traveled to Outdoor Classroom in Freedom, New Hampshire, for an unforgettable three-day educational experience that blended outdoor adventure, environmental science, engineering, teamwork, and personal growth. This field study served as a culminating activity of their years at the school and was selected by them among several opportunities.

During their stay, students engaged in hands-on science and engineering activities that brought key concepts to life. In a bridge-building challenge inspired by Leonardo da Vinci, they constructed wooden structures held together solely by gravity and friction—without nails or glue—and tested their strength by walking across them. They also collaborated to build a four-level, 25-foot-tall PVC geodesic dome, gaining a deeper understanding of the physics behind its stability. In addition, students applied practical outdoor skills through cooking activities, building fires and preparing food while connecting scientific concepts to real-world applications.

Beyond their academic experiences, students participated in team-building activities that fostered communication, leadership, cooperation, and problem-solving. Whether hiking wooded trails, engaging in group initiatives, learning new outdoor skills, or simply enjoying the tranquility of the lake at sunset, they built confidence while deepening trust and strengthening peer relationships.

Evening programs provided opportunities for reflection, recreation, and community building, with sing-alongs creating lasting memories that will remain with students long after graduation.

The Outdoor Classroom experience offers meaningful opportunities for students to grow academically, socially, and personally while enjoying the beauty of New Hampshire’s natural surroundings. All Saints Academy is grateful to the dedicated professionals whose passion and commitment help foster a lasting connection between students and the natural world, making this memorable educational adventure possible.



BEST PRICES OF THE YEAR!

AUGUST

TAX-FREE WEEKEND

8th & 9th

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\$189.99

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Front Load - REG. \$1599.99
\$1,399.99

SMOOTH-TOP STOVE
REG. \$899.99
\$599.99

AMANA WASHER OR DRYER
REG. \$699.99
\$489.99

MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER
REG. \$699.99
\$529.99

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REG. \$999.99
\$799.99

ENERGY STAR 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
REG. \$699.99
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FRIGIDAIRE SIDE BY SIDE
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LEGALS

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A
Notice is hereby given by
Cruise Control Transportation Inc.
Pursuant to the provisions of G.L.
c. 255, Section 39A. that on or
after **July 31,2026** at Cruise Control
Transportation Inc. the following motor
vehicle/s will be sold at private sale
to satisfy our garage keeper's lien
thereon for storage, towing charges,
care and expenses of notices and sale
of said vehicle:

Vehicle:2014 Chevrolet Cruze
Vin :1G1PE5SBXE7324575
Last Registered owner :
Bruno Silva
2546 Providence Rd ,
Northbridge MA 01534

Vehicle:2008 Honda CR-V
Vin :JHLRE48558C002470
Last Registered owner :
QR Auto Clinic
101 Skyline Dr #1
Arlington WI 53911

Vehicle:2011 Honda Accord
Vin :1HGCP2F8XBA141609
Last Registered owner :
Brianna Chanel Rodriguez
28 Norcross Ter Apt 2
Lynn MA 01902-2546

Vehicle:2010 Lincoln Navigator
Vin :5LMJJ2J53AEJ08147
Last Registered owner :
Hannah Gallant
21 VILLAGE DR, APT 10
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550-3140

Vehicle:2007 Scion TC
Vin :JTKDE167070207732
Last Registered owner :
Cathleen Degraw
82 Blackstone St FL 1
Woonsocket RI 02895

Vehicle:2008 Hyundai SANTA FE
Vin :5NMSH13E78H140265
Last Registered owner :
Jacob Rodriguez
360 MAIN ST, APT 350
STURBRIDGE MA 01566-1390

Vehicle:2010 Subaru Forester
Vin :JF2SH6DC3AH756144
Last Registered owner :
Jenna M Raleigh
555 WORCESTER ST
Southbridge MA 01550-3300

Vehicle:2013 Nissan Versa
Vin :3N1CN7AP6DL869782
Last Registered owner :
LM Services Llc
104 Grove St Apt 2
Meriden CT 06451

Vehicle:2003 Chevrolet Astro
Vin :1GNEL19X83B140381
Last Registered owner :
Bobby Jo Samek
12 Pleasant St Apt 2
West Brookfield MA 01585

Vehicle:2014 Kia Forte
Vin :KNAFX4A60E5154408
Last Registered owner :
Lucas M. Oliveira
36 Cotting Ave.
Marlborough MA 01752-2977

Vehicle:2008 Chevrolet Malibu
Vin :1G1ZK577484283193
Last Registered owner :
Chandler Paul
33 Kingman Ave
Brockton ,MA 02302

Vehicle:2013 Hyundai VELOSTER
Vin :KMHTC6AD4DU110245
Last Registered owner :
Jeson Astrada Aponte
537 Broad St Apt 3
Meriden ,CT 06450

Vehicle:2013 Dodge Dart
Vin :1C3CDFBA0DD322666
Last Registered owner :
Erie Insurance Group
245 Grandview Ave Ste. 200
Camphill ,PA 17011

Vehicle:2005 Toyota Prius
Vin :JTDKB20U357016855
Last Registered owner :
Newton Bruno De Oliveira Pedro
71 Blue Hills Ave Apt C3
Hartford CT, 06112-1845
July 24, 2026
July 31, 2026
August 7, 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY
DIVISION
NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN
PUBLIC HEARING
Sturbridge-Charlton-East Brookfield
Intersection Improvements on Route
49 at Putnam Road, Walker Pond
Road & Route 20
Project File No. 611967
A Virtual Design Public Hearing will

be hosted on the MassDOT website
below to present the design for the
proposed project in Sturbridge and
Charlton, MA.
WHEN: 7:00 pm, Wednesday,
August 12, 2026
PURPOSE: The purpose of this
hearing is to provide the public with the
opportunity to become fully acquainted
with the proposed project. All views
and comments submitted in response
to the hearing will be reviewed and
considered to the maximum extent
possible.
PROPOSAL: The proposed project
was initiated as part of the Intersection
Improvement Program due to the pres-
ence of a Top 200 Statewide Crash
Location at Route 49 and Putnam
Road. Two other crash clusters were
identified (although not in the Top 200
Crash Locations) along the corridor
and have been included for safety
improvements. Location #1 - Putnam
Road at Route 49, Location 2- Walker
Pond Road, and Location 3 - Route
20. The targeted safety improvements
include construction of a roundabout at
Putnam Road, improved sight lines at
Walker Pond Road, and slip ramp mod-
ifications at Route 20. Bicycle improve-
ments will be included at Location 1 to
provide a Shared-Use Path circulat-
ing the proposed roundabout, meet-
ing MassDOT Healthy Transportation
Policy Directive and applicable design
guidelines.
A secure right-of-way is necessary for
this project. Acquisitions in fee and
permanent or temporary easements
may be required. The Commonwealth
of Massachusetts is responsible for
acquiring all needed rights in private or
public lands. MassDOT's policy con-
cerning land acquisitions will be pre-
sented at the hearing.

Project inquiries, written state-
ments, and other exhibits regard-
ing the proposed undertaking may
be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee,
P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to
[MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.
state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite
7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA
02116, Attention: Project Management,
Project File No. 611967 Statements
and exhibits intended for inclusion in
the hearing transcript must be emailed
or postmarked no later than ten (10)
business days (14 calendar days) after
the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to peo-
ple with disabilities. MassDOT pro-
vides reasonable accommodations
and/or language assistance free of
charge upon request (e.g interpreters in
American Sign Language and languag-
es other than English, live captioning,
videos, assistive listening devices and
alternate material formats), as avail-
able. For accommodation or language
assistance, please contact MassDOT's
Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer
by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY
at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602,
or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@
dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be
made as soon as possible, and prior
to the hearing, and for more difficult to
arrange services, including sign-lan-
guage, CART, or language transla-
tion or interpretation, requests should
be made at least ten business days
before the hearing.
This hearing will be hosted, or a can-
cellation announcement posted, on the
internet at [https://www.mass.gov/orgs/
highway-division/events](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events).
JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
= CHIEF ENGINEER
Town Clerk
July 31, 2026
August 07, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation
Commission will hold a public hear-
ing on Thursday, **August 6, 2026 at
6:00pm** on the 2nd Floor of the Center
Office Building, 301 Main Street,
Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo
Meeting, to consider a Request for
Determination of Applicability filed by
Samantha Robinson, of Robinson Tree
Service, pursuant to the Massachusetts
Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c.
131, §40) and the Town of Sturbridge
Wetlands Protection Bylaw.
The applicant seeks approval to
remove 52 trees at **37, 53, 141 Wells
Park Road**, Sturbridge, MA.
Remote participation information and
application materials will be posted at
least 48 hours prior to the hearing on
the Conservation Commission web-
page at [www.sturbridge.gov/conserva-
tion-commission](http://www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission).
Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
July 31, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation
Commission will hold a public hearing
on **Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 6:30**
on the 2nd Floor of the Center Office
Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge,
MA 01566 and via GoTo Meeting, to
consider an Amendment to the Local
Notice of Intent, SCC File #25-17 filed
by Eileen Piskura, of BSC Group, pur-
suant to the Massachusetts Wetlands
Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40)
and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands
Protection Bylaw.
The applicant seeks approval to allow
for an additional 10,087 sq. feet of
temporary construction matting within
resource area along the **Transmission
Line 301, Sturbridge, MA**.
Remote participation information and
application materials will be posted at
least 48 hours prior to the hearing on
the Conservation Commission web-
page at [www.sturbridge.gov/conserva-
tion-commission](http://www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission).
Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
July 31, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation
Commission will hold a public hear-
ing on **Thursday, August 6, 2026
at 6:20pm** on the 2nd Floor of the
Center Office Building, 301 Main
Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via
GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Notice of
Intent** filed by Glenn Krevosky, of EBT
Environmental Consultants, pursuant
to the Massachusetts Wetlands
Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40)
and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands
Protection Bylaw.
The applicant seeks approv-
al to replace the existing retaining
walls, walkways, decks, and fences; fill
an abandoned shallow well; and pave
the existing driveway at **98 Westwood
Drive, Sturbridge, MA**.
Remote participation information and
application materials will be posted at
least 48 hours prior to the hearing on
the Conservation Commission web-
page at [www.sturbridge.gov/conser-
vation-commission](http://www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission).
Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
July 31, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sturbridge Conservation
Commission will hold a public hear-
ing on **Thursday, August 6, 2026 at
6:10pm** on the 2nd Floor of the Center
Office Building, 301 Main Street,
Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via GoTo
Meeting, to consider a **Request for
Determination of Applicability** filed
by Glenn Krevosky, of EBT
Environmental Consultants, pursuant
to the Massachusetts Wetlands
Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40)
and the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands
Protection Bylaw.
The applicant seeks approv-
al to improve the integrity of an exist-
ing stairway and associated land-
ings at **108 South Shore Drive,
Sturbridge, MA**.
Remote participation information and
application materials will be posted at
least 48 hours prior to the hearing on
the Conservation Commission web-
page at [www.sturbridge.gov/conser-
vation-commission](http://www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission).
Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
July 31, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland
Protection Act of the General Laws of
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton
Conservation Commission will hold
a public hearing on August 19, 2026,
at 7PM on the application of Scribner
Development LLC.
The applicant has submitted a Request
for Determination of Applicability to
cross a Bordering Vegetated Wetland
to conduct perc testing. Address: 40
Carroll Hill Road, Charlton, MA, 01507.
Parcel ID: 23-A-16
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton
Conservation Commission will be
conducted in person and via remote
means. Members of the public who
wish to participate can access the
meeting remotely by request.
Copies of the RDA may be examined at
the Conservation Office by appointment
during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation
Commission
July 30, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland
Protection Act of the General Laws of
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton
Conservation Commission will hold
a public hearing on August 19, at
7PM on the application of Otis Land
Management / New England Power.
The applicant has filed a Notice of
Intent for grading along the property
line to remove existing material and
to stabilize the area within the 100-ft
buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated
Wetland and the outer riparian zone
to a perennial stream. The project
location is: 125 & 0 Southbridge Road,
Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 44-B-6
& 44-B-4
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton
Conservation Commission will be
conducted in person and via remote
means. Members of the public who
wish to participate can access the
meeting remotely by request.
Copies of the NOI may be examined at
the Conservation Office by appointment
during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation
Commission
July 30, 2026

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given under Chapter
138, Section 12 of Massachusetts
General Laws of a public hearing to be
held in the Rice Meeting Room, first
floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street,
Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, August
27, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. during the regular
scheduled Liquor Licensing Board
Meeting in regard to an application for
a Change of Manager.
This hearing pertains to Cohasse Golf
Club, Inc., d/b/a Cohasse Golf Club,
393 Eastford Rd., Southbridge, MA,
01550. Anyone wishing to speak will
be given the opportunity to be heard.
This notice is also published
electronically on [www.
stonebridgepress.com](http://www.stonebridgepress.com) and on [www.
masspublicnotice.org](http://www.masspublicnotice.org)
Town of Southbridge
Liquor Licensing Board
July 30, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No.WO26P1763EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Judith Grignon
Date of Death:04/13/2026
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of
Will with Appointment of Personal
Representative** has been filed by **Wil-
liam H Grignon of Fort Myers FL** re-
questing that the Court enter a formal
Decree and Order and for such other
relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
William H Grignon of Fort Myers FL
and **James F Grignon of Pembroke
MA** be appointed as Personal Repre-
sentative(s) of said estate to serve on
the estate in **unsupervised adminis-
tration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of
the Petition from the Petitioner or at the
Court. You have a right to object to
this proceeding. To do so, you or your
attorney must file a written appear-
ance and objection at this Court be-
fore: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of
08/11/2026**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-
line by which you must file a written ap-
pearance and objection if you object to
this proceeding. If you fail to file a time-
ly written appearance and objection
followed by an affidavit of objections
within thirty (30) days of the return day,
action may be taken without further no-
tice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**
A Personal Representative appointed
under the MUPC in an unsupervised
administration is not required to file an
inventory or annual accounts with the
Court. Persons interested in the estate
are entitled to notice regarding the ad-
ministration directly from the Personal
Representative and may petition the
Court in any matter relating to the es-
tate, including the distribution of assets
and expenses of administration.
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey,
First Justice of this Court.**
Date: July 20, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 30, 2026

Shepherd Hill students hosting Tackle the Stigma 5K to promote mental health awareness

CHARLTON — The Shepherd Hill Regional High School cheerleading program, in partnership with the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District community, is inviting residents to lace up their running shoes and help break down barriers surrounding mental health during the annual Tackle the Stigma 5K and 2.5K Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Shepherd Hill football field and is designed to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness while encouraging open conversations throughout the local community.

Organizers hope participants of all ages will come together to demonstrate support for those facing mental health challenges and reinforce the message that no one has to struggle alone.

"This event is very important to us as we work to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness throughout our local community," organizers said in announcing the event.

The walk and run carries the theme, "Run toward awareness, stand up for support, and tackle the stigma one mile at a time," reflecting its focus on education, compassion and community involvement.

Mental health advocates continue to emphasize the importance of reducing the stigma surrounding anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions, which can often prevent individuals from seeking help.

Community events such as Tackle the Stigma aim to create a welcoming environment where conversations about mental wellness are encouraged and support resources are highlighted.

In addition to providing an opportunity for exercise and community engagement, the event serves as a reminder that mental health is an important part of overall well-being.

Organizers hope the day will inspire participants to check in with friends, family members and neighbors while promoting a culture of understanding and acceptance.

The Shepherd Hill cheerleaders have made mental health awareness a priority, using the event to unite students, families, educators and community members around a common cause.

By bringing together participants from across Dudley, Charlton and surrounding communities, they hope to build momentum for ongoing conversations that extend well beyond race day.

Whether participants choose the full 5-kilometer course or the shorter 2.5-kilometer walk/run, organizers say every step represents a commitment to supporting mental wellness and reminding those who may be struggling that help is available.

Registration information and additional event details are expected to be available through Shepherd Hill Regional High School and the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District as the event approaches.

Outdoor summer concert returns Aug. 21 in downtown Worcester with Jazz+Live™ featuring The Love Dogs

WORCESTER — WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM, The Hanover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts, and the Downtown Worcester Business Improvement District invite the community to celebrate summer at the 9th Annual Jazz+Live™ concert, featuring the acclaimed jump blues and rhythm & blues band The Love Dogs.

The outdoor concert will take place on Friday, Aug. 21, behind The Hanover Theatre in downtown Worcester. Gates open at 5 p.m., with the concert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

For more than two decades, The Love Dogs, fronted by the charismatic Eddie Scheer, have entertained audiences across the United States, Canada, and Europe with their irresistible blend of jump blues, New Orleans R&B, swing, and early rock ‘n’ roll. Their powerhouse horn section, boogie-woogie piano, soulful vocals, and infectious stage presence have made them one of New England’s premier live bands and a favorite among music lovers of all ages.

“Jazz+ Live™ has become one of Worcester’s signature summer traditions because it brings together outstanding live music, strong community partnerships, and people who simply enjoy spending an evening together,” said Melanie Le-Boeuf, Executive Director of WICN Public Radio. “At WICN, we believe music has the power to connect people.”

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, along with food and non-alcoholic beverages, to enjoy during the performance. Food trucks and cash bars will be available throughout the evening. Outside alcohol is not permitted.

General admission tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 on the day of the event. Guests should bring their own lawn chairs. VIP front-row tables for four are available for \$175 per table, offering reserved seating with the best views of the stage. Tickets are available through The Hanover Theatre Box Office and online at TheHanoverTheatre.org.

About WICN Public Radio

WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM is an independent, nonprofit public radio station serving Central Massachusetts and beyond. Through award-winning jazz, roots, blues, world music, and locally produced programming, WICN connects listeners with the arts, culture, education, and conversations that enrich the region. WICN’s mission is to inspire, entertain, and engage diverse audiences while supporting the cultural vitality of the communities it serves. Broadcasting throughout Central New England and streaming worldwide, WICN brings exceptional music and local voices to audiences wherever they are.

Town of Charlton accepting applications for Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program

CHARLTON — The Town of Charlton is accepting applications for funding through the Town’s Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program.

The purpose of this program is to support initiatives that prevent opioid misuse, expand access to treatment and recovery services, reduce the harms associated with substance use disorders, and improve the health and well-being of Charlton residents. Funding is made available through the Town’s allocation of national opioid settlement funds and must be used for eligible purposes consistent with applicable settlement agreements and guidance. Funding may be requested to a maximum of \$2,500 per applicant. Final awards will be distributed based on available funding as well as demonstrated need and community impact.

Eligible applicants may include:

- o Nonprofit organizations
- o Educational institutions
- o Healthcare providers
- o Community-based organizations
- o Other organizations serving Charlton residents

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- o Prevention and education programs
- o Treatment and recovery support services
- o Harm reduction initiatives
- o First responder or public safety initiatives related to opioid response

- o Behavioral health and mental health services
- o Community outreach and support programs
- o Data collection, evaluation, and other evidence-based strategies that address opioid use disorder

Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated community need, alignment with eligible opioid settlement uses, measurable outcomes, organizational capacity, and the anticipated impact on Charlton residents.

Completed applications and all required supporting documentation for the first round of this grant program must be submitted by Aug. 31. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO22P0183EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Estate of:
Susan H Rasco
Also known as: Susan Rasco
Date of Death: 08/30/2021
To all interested persons:
A Petition for has been filed by **Cynthia A. Norton of West Boylston-MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that: **Jeffrey P Greenberg of Worcester MA** be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/04/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 07, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 30, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P2009EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Peter Brackett Dirlam
Also known as: Peter B Dirlam
Date of Death: 11/26/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Anne Berlind of Portland ME** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Anne Berlind of Portland ME** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration.**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/18/2026.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the

Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 20, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 30, 2026

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on August 19, 2026, at 7PM on the application of Jennifer Bergeron.
The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the installation of footings to support a raised deck within the 100-ft buffer zone to South Charlton Reservoir. Address: 5 Robert Blvd, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 73B-D-2
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request.
Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
July 30, 2026

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the Rice Meeting Room, first floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. during the regular scheduled Liquor Licensing Board Meeting in regard to an application for a Change of Manager.

This hearing pertains to Fraternal Order of Eagles, Inc., d/b/a Fraternal Order of Eagles, 59 Mill st., Southbridge, MA, 01550. Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard. This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org
Town of Southbridge
Liquor Licensing Board
July 30, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01876
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P1505EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
Charles M. Morse, Sr.
Date of Death: November 11, 2025
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Elizabeth Morse of Sturbridge MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Elizabeth Morse of Sturbridge MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
July 30, 2026

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Local students named to Holy Cross' Spring Dean's List

WORCESTER — College of the Holy Cross congratulates the students named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2025-26 academic year. The following local students made the list:

Molly Hachey of Charlton, Class of 2026

Erin Moran of Charlton, Class of 2026

Alexandra Matheson of Sturbridge, Class of 2028

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn

a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,200 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.



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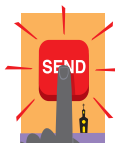
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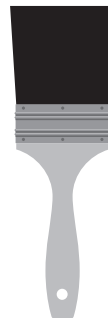
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UMass Amherst announces Spring Dean's List

AMHERST — The following students were named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Students are appointed to the Dean's List at the end of a semester in which they have completed a minimum of 12 graded credits and have earned a grade point average of 3.500 or better.	Charlton Dylan Michael Carbonneau Samantha Cox Hanna Joanne Gamelli Abbigael Mae Rose Hill Andrew John Kania Harry John Kennan Leah Rose Leclair Olivia Rose Lombardi Shawn Christopher Maple Luke Harry Miller Connor Daniel Montville Eliana Anima Owusu-Ansah Madelyn Taylor Parker Colin Michael Resener Adrien Mael Roach Amanda Sampson Francisco Javier Torres Torres	Fiskdale Katherine Christine Eliason Lucy Emmanuel Camden John Foley Brodie W Hemingway Ava Christine Howard Adam Albert Howe Laurel Elinor Ives Vanessa T Joyner Holland Abigail S Grillo Southbridge Isabella Lucia Colangione Matthew Zenon Gil Genesis Mykaela Hernandez Kierce Jason Jarvis	Madison Quinn Murphy Adriana Del Carmen Quintanilla Manaali Durgesh Vaidya Sturbridge Madeline Francis Andersen Zachary R Christenson Zachariah Ertsgard Luke Brandon Goodwin Rita Carolyn Goodwin Brady John Miller Owen William O'Connor Matthew Jon Oko Wales May Marie Adams
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MLS No. 73544127 \$155,000.

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street

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MLS # 73500183 \$479,900

Webster - 18 DiDonato Ave

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Webster Lake Waterfront

Featured New Listing!
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Open House Sunday 11 - 2
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MLS#73542689 \$1,550,000.

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd

New Construction-Craftsman Style home
Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 bds, 3 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bathr, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage
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Major collaborative milestone marked at QCC Center Topping Off

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College celebrated a major construction milestone with a Topping Off Ceremony for its new QCC Center, marking the completion of the building’s structural frame. State and local leaders, project partners, and members of the college community gathered to witness the raising of the final beam and celebrate the progress of this transformational project.

"Through careful planning, advocacy, fundraising, design and construction, the vision is now becoming a reality," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "Most importantly, this will create opportunities for students to develop the skills they need to succeed in today’s workforce and strengthen the connection between education, industry and our community."

The event featured a ceremonial beam signing and remarks from Pedraja; State Sen. Robyn Kennedy; State Rep. James O’Day; Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty; Assistant Secretary Robert LePage of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education; Deputy Commissioner Dr. Richard Riccardi of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education; Commissioner Adam Baacke of the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM); and Craig Skurka, operations manager for Gilbane Building Company.

"The raising of the beam is a moment for us to give gratitude and thank those who have stepped up to make this a reality," Kennedy said. "As you join into the growing skyline of Worcester, we continue to grow with you. By signing our names to these beams, we are signing our commitment to make sure the school continues to be successful."

The Topping Off Ceremony commemorated the progress of the \$37.4 million renovation and expansion project, which is transforming a 1960s-era athletic facility into a modern, accessible hub for learning, workforce development and student life.

Upon completion, the 57,000-square-foot facility will feature advanced manufacturing and robotics laboratories, hospitality training spaces, flexible classrooms and revitalized athletic facilities. The project also includes significant upgrades to aging infrastructure and accessibility improvements designed to create a more inclusive



Courtesy Photo

Left to right: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Richard Riccardi of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education; QCC Trustee Dr. Barur Rajeshkumar; QCC Trustee Dr. Satya Mitra; Commissioner Adam Baacke of the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM); QCC Board Chair Dr. Linda Maykel; QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja; State Sen. Robyn Kennedy; State Rep. James O’Day; Assistant Secretary Robert LePage of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education; Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty; QCC Student Trustee Dawit Quilty and Craig Skurka, operations manager for Gilbane Building Company.

and welcoming environment for all students.

"This project is so important to the mission and vision of Quinsigamond Community College, the region it serves and the Commonwealth," Riccardi said. "We know that holistic student success incorporates curricular and co-curricular initiatives, and this project provides the infrastructure to check both of those boxes."

Speakers highlighted the collaborative partnership among the college, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and project stakeholders that have made this investment possible.

"It is a necessity that we continue to improve our community college environ-

ments," O’Day said. "The legislature has made it very clear that not only is higher ed important, but certainly the community college segment is equally as important. It’s been an honor to be able to represent the college."

While the majority of the renovation is funded by DCAMM, the project reflects the type of transformational campus investment envisioned through the Commonwealth’s BRIGHT Act (An Act to Build Resilient Infrastructure to Generate Higher Education Transformation). The statewide initiative is designed to support modernization of public higher education facilities.

"I want to thank our legislative partners

for championing the BRIGHT Act to date and hopefully getting it across the finish line so we can keep doing impactful projects like this one," Baacke said. "As someone whose parents both worked at community colleges, I know there are few things we do that are more important in changing the lives of residents across the Commonwealth than what community colleges do every day."

Designed to achieve LEED Gold certification, the facility will support improved energy performance, enhanced indoor air quality and long-term sustainability goals.

"Buildings like this bring jobs to your community – great-paying opportunities for advancement. We are looking forward to continuing to make these investments. They are about the future of the economy," LePage said.

Skurka recognized the efforts of the construction team and project partners in reaching the milestone safely and efficiently.

"Today’s event celebrates a significant construction milestone and the many people and partnerships helping us bring this project to life," Skurka said. "At Gilbane, we are committed to creating healthy, safe and sustainable spaces that have a lasting effect on the community. We are honored to partner with QCC on this transformative project."

The QCC Center is expected to open in Fall 2027 and will serve as a centerpiece of the college’s campus, creating new opportunities for hands-on learning, workforce training and community engagement.

"When we look at this structure, we aren’t just looking at steel beams and concrete; we’re looking at the literal framework of Worcester’s economic future," said Petty. "True progress means lifting everyone up. By expanding physical accessibility and producing state-of-the-art, energy-efficient systems, QCC is ensuring our green energy and equity goals move forward."

Saint Joseph School celebrates Kindergarten Class of 2026



Courtesy Photo

The Saint Joseph School Kindergarten Class of 2026 proudly displays their graduation certificates following their ceremony on Wednesday, June 10, in the Richard A. Nowak Gymnasium.

WEBSTER — On Wednesday, June 10, Saint Joseph School Kindergarten students and their families gathered in the Richard A. Nowak Gymnasium to celebrate an exciting milestone as the students participated in their Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony. Dressed proudly in traditional Saint Joseph School red and white caps and gowns, the students processed into the gymnasium as family members, facul-

ty, and friends looked on with pride.

The ceremony began with welcome remarks from Kindergarten Instructor, Mrs. Alicia Maurer, followed by the students leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, The Our Father, and The Hail Mary. The graduates then showcased their talents through musical performances of "One Small Voice," "Hosanna!," and "Kindergarten Graduation," inspired by songs from the beloved musical Grease.

One of the highlights of the morning was the students sharing what they hope to become when they grow up. Their dreams reflected both creativity and ambition, with students sharing aspirations of becoming teachers, singers, a nurse, police officer, astronaut, soccer player, veterinarian, zoologist, artist, baker, banker, builder, construction worker, gymnastics coach, ballerina teacher, dog sitter, reading teacher, and even a Savannah Bananas baseball player. The wide variety of responses brought smiles to the audience and served as a reminder of the limitless potential within this special group of students.

The ceremony concluded with the

presentation of graduation certificates by Principal Beth Boudreau, followed by a special slideshow celebrating memorable moments from the school year and the many accomplishments of the Kindergarten Class of 2026.

This year, 23 students proudly advanced to First Grade: Joel Anobah, Gloria Basha, Wesley Goulet, Maeve Haynes, Anna Berry, Zuzanna Bialik, Faustyna Kicilinski, Giovanni Laramée, Alex Chruslicki, Emy Corbin, Lillith Marchand, Elliette Nowicki, Sadie Dejordy, Milena Deptula, Eve Pytko, Sonny Saad, Marcus DiTullio-Cedeno, Sophia Dowd, Robert Thrun, Brody Walker, Charles Dziedzic, Aceson Wright, and Emilia Dziobak.

Saint Joseph School Kindergarten students are taught by Mrs. Alicia Maurer, with the support of Mrs. Sandra Gibson, whose dedication, encouragement, and care helped prepare these young learners for a successful transition into First Grade.

Congratulations to the Saint Joseph School Kindergarten Class of 2026. We wish each of these students continued success as they begin the next chapter of their educational journey!

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CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK!

7/18 THE MOONSHINERS 7/19 RYAN HOOD
7/24 JOHNNY TAYLOR 7/26 EASY SEASON
7/31 EVAN COUTURE

Half Priced Apps
Tues-Thurs from 2-5pm

New Summer Mocktail Menu

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online 308lakeside.com

New Summer Menu & Hours (11-9)